

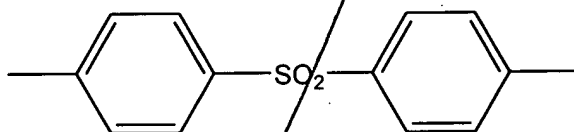
II. This is in response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2002, the period for reply having been extended by the above petition and payment of the extension fee. Please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 17, 19, 20, 28 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 14, 15, 23, 24 and 30 as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims is attached.

B1
1. (Twice Amended) An endless belt for electrophotography which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die; the endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1)

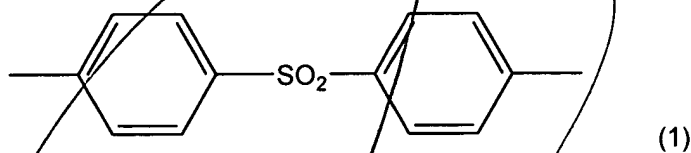


(1)

the endless belt having a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit-width of the circular die used and having an external diameter of more than 100% but less than or equal to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used, wherein an extrusion material has a breaking extension of 2% or more and a tensile breaking strength of 40 MPa or more.

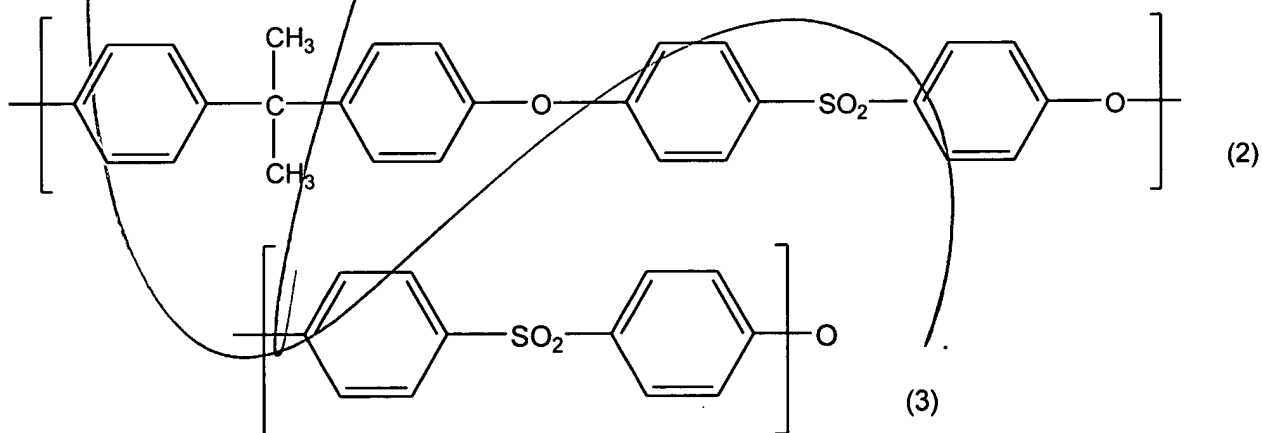
B2
14. (Amended) A process for producing an endless belt for electrophotography; the process comprising the step of melt-extruding a thermoplastic

resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1), from a circular die to produce the endless belt continuously



the endless belt having a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit-width of the circular die used and having an external diameter of more than 100% but less than or equal to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used, wherein an extrusion material has a breaking extension of 2% or more and a tensile breaking strength of 40 MPa or more.

15. (Amended) A process according to claim 14, wherein said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)



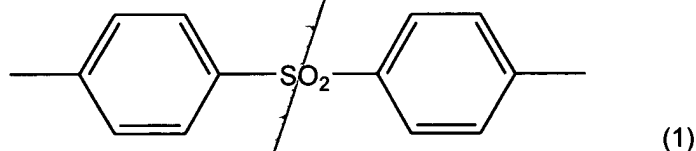
23. (Amended) A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a maximum value of a surface-direction resistance that is not greater than 100 times a minimum value of said surface-direction resistance.

24. (Amended) A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a maximum value of a thickness-direction resistance that is not greater than 100 times a minimum value of said thickness-direction resistance.

30. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus for electrophotography comprising:

an endless belt which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die;

said endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1)



the endless belt having a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit-width of the circular die used and having an external diameter of more than 100% but less than or equal to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used, wherein an extrusion material has a breaking extension of 2% or more and a tensile breaking strength of 40 MPa or more.